Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

The Honorable Tom Latham Chairman Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee 2358-A Rayburn HOB Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Ed Pastor Ranking Member Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee 1016 Longworth HOB Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Latham and Ranking Member Pastor:

We were extremely disappointed to learn that TIGER grant funding suffered a more than 80% cut, receiving only \$100 million in the fiscal year 2015 House Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations (T-HUD) bill. We were also disappointed by the restrictive language that prohibits certain types of transportation projects such as mass transit from receiving TIGER funding. We are writing to urge you to support, at a minimum, the Senate Appropriations Committee funding level for TIGER grants of \$550 million in fiscal year 2015 without restrictive language.

TIGER grants are distributed by competition, and the demand for these grants is enormous in comparison to the available funding. For fiscal year 2014 funding, for example, the Department of Transportation received applications from almost every State in the country for projects that totaled \$9.5 billion. The President's budget request had included \$1.25 billion for this important program.

Investment in infrastructure creates jobs in communities throughout the United States while it builds and repairs our nation's highways, bridges, and mass transit. The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) estimates that we will need to invest \$3.6 trillion in infrastructure by the year 2020. In 2013, in an evaluation of capacity, condition, and public safety, among other critical characteristics, the ASCE gave American infrastructure a D+. Cutting funding to the TIGER grant program would be a terrible mistake in light of the drastic need to improve our infrastructure and to protect American jobs.

Again, we urge you to support investment in our nation's transportation infrastructure through adoption of no less than the Senate funding level of \$550 million for the TIGER grant program in fiscal year 2015.

Sincerely,

William L. Enyart

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